

REMARKS

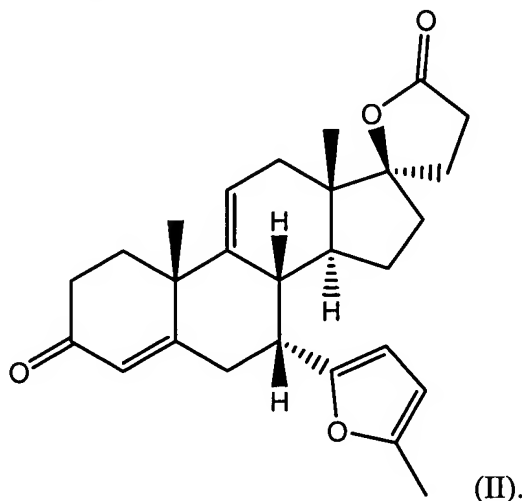
Claim Amendments

Claims 13-20 are amended to more particularly define the invention. In particular, the term “17 β -Hydroxy-7 α -(5'-methyl-2'-furyl)-pregna-4,9(11)-dien-3-one-21-carboxylic acid, γ -lactone (II)” has been deleted from the claims. No new matter has been added. Other amendments correct grammatical errors or remove redundancies to improve the form of the claims. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 13-20 will remain pending in the application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The present invention is generally directed to a novel crystal form of a compound having a structure corresponding to formula II:



Although the compound of formula II may be named as “17 β -Hydroxy-7 α -(5'-methyl-2'-furyl)-pregna-4,9(11)-dien-3-one-21-carboxylic acid, γ -lactone” under some acceptable naming conventions, Applicants have amended claim 13 to define the compound in terms of its structure. Accordingly, Applicants submit that any ambiguity with respect to the term “17 β -Hydroxy-7 α -(5'-methyl-2'-furyl)-pregna-4,9(11)-dien-3-one-21-carboxylic

acid, γ -lactone" has been removed such that the amended claim satisfies the requirements under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

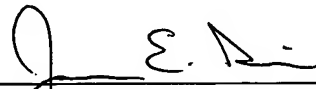
Claims 14-20, which depend in whole or in part from claim 13, are submitted to be patentable for the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 13.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot by this amendment. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 446-7683.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are required by the timely submission of this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. Further, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment of any fees in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such deficiency or credit such overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

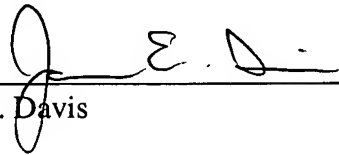
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on **March 7, 2005** with sufficient postage as first class mail (including Express Mail per MPEP §512), and addressed to **Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**



James E. Davis